

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 FBO-02 A-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /056 W

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P 181737Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8514

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0865

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJ: US-BENIN RELATIONS: QUESTION OF GPRB ASSURANCES RE
CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE

REF (A) COTONOU 861, (B) COTONOU 824, (C) COTONOU 799,
(D) STATE 119077,

1. DURING FRANK DISCUSSION WITH FORNMIN DIR FOR WESTERN EUROPE/
NORTH AMERICAN GNONLONFOUN (18 MAY), I WAS TOLD THAT THE
WRITTEN ASSURANCES WE HAVE REQUESTED RE THE CHANCERY AND RES-
IDENCE WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLU-
TIONARY PARY OF BENIN. MY TALK WITH GNONLONFOUN WAS A FOLLOW-
UP TO MY MEETING EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH THE DIRGEN OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY (REF A). GNONLONFOUN HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED
OF MY CONVERSATION WITH ADJIN, NOR HAD HE SEEN OUR NOTE.
I GAVE HIM AN EXTRA COPY OF IT.

2. GNONLONFOUN EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THE DECISION TO HAVE US
VACATE THE CHANCERY
AND RESIDENCE WAS MADE AT THE POLITICAL
LEVEL (I.E., THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE), THE DECISION TO GIVE US
THE WRITTEN ASSURANCES REQUESTED IN OUR MAY 3 AIDE-MEMOIRE
AND THE FOLLOW-UP NOTE DELIVERED TODAY GO BEYOND THE CAPACITY
EVEN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE WAS SURE THAT ALLADAYE WOULD
DO WHAT HE COULD. HOWEVER, IN OUR OPINION, THAT MAY NOT BE
ENOUGH. (N.B. ALLADAYE HAS JUST BEEN NAMED TO THE 7-MEMBER
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POLITBUREAU OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.)

3. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE
DISPARITY BETWEEN WHAT ALLADAYE
SAID TO ME ON MAY 5 AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE OF
MAY 11 (REFS B AND C). IT ALSO DETRACTS FROM THE VALUE OF
ALLADAYE'S VERBAL ASSURANCES, AS CLEARLY HE WOULD NEED CENTRAL
COMMITTEE APPROVAL TO BACK UP HIS WORDS. ALLADAYE PROBABLY
HOPED THAT HIS VERBAL ASSURANCES WOULD BE ENOUGH TO OBTAIN
THE NECESSITY FOR GOING TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

4. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING IT IS
IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE WRITTEN ASSURANCES. ALLADAYE'S WORD
WILL NOT SUFFICE. EMBASSY IS NOT CONFIDENT THAT THESE WILL
BE FORTHCOMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE PROPOSE TO WAIT
A WEEK, THEN IN ORDER TO OBTAIN WHAT WE WANT, AND AFTER FURTHER
DISCUSSION WITH GNONLONFOUN, WE RECOMMEND THAT CHARGE BE AU-
THORIZED TO TAKE UP MATTER DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT KEREKOU.
CHESHES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, EMBASSIES, BUILDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COTONO00865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760192-0715
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760543/aaaabkng.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COTONOU 861, 76 COTONOU 824, 76 COTONOU 799
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-BENIN RELATIONS: QUESTION OF GPRB ASSURANCES RE CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE
TAGS: PFOR, DM, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006